GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3937
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2017
CAPART Lucknow Office
Rajbhar Shri Hari Narayan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of basic amenities in villages of the country and the amenities which are not available in village, State-wise;

(b) whether two-thirds of population living in rural areas do not have access to adequate public amenities and livelihood opportunities and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rural-urban divide has been widening day-by-day in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether there is urgent need for providing urban amenities to rural areas to end the divide and steps being taken by the Government for improving the quality of life in rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a): The state-wise status of basic amenities such as housing, rural roads, drinking water and sanitation are given at Annexure.

(b): No, Madam.

(c) to (e): With the concerted efforts of the government, there has been narrowing down of differences between the rural and urban areas of the country in various aspects of development viz., education, health, sanitation, wages etc. Significant achievement has also been made in reducing poverty in rural areas. However, inequality in terms of income and consumption has widened over the period necessitating specific interventions for the rural areas of the country. Widening inequality is due to inequality in opportunities, particularly access to education, health, financial services and basic infrastructure. Keeping this in view, the Ministry of Rural Development, inter alia, is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana−Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life of the people in rural areas through employment generation, strengthening of livelihood opportunities, promoting self employment, skilling of rural youths, provision of social assistance and other basic amenities. Further, Government has also launched Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) on 21st February 2016 to reduce the inadequacies in public amenities and livelihood opportunities in rural areas. The Mission supports the States/UTs with upto 30% of the project cost for development of identified rural clusters with a focus on addressing inadequacies in basic, social and digital amenities to support the livelihood and economic thrust in such clusters. These interventions along with the interventions of other Ministries in different aspects of rural development viz., education, health, nutrition, financial inclusion etc. have direct bearing on reduction in rural-urban divide and improving the quality of life in rural areas.

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